marked decline of the imports has been noted. Cotton goods increased from less than one per cent, of China's total exports in 1913 to about ten per cent, in 1932. This seemed to mean that China was less and less a market for the products of the mills of Lancashire and Japan and more and more a competitor in foreign markets. Some of the exports, too, showed the effect of the rapid development of Manchuria, with its soy beans, its coal, and its timber. One form of export which in total market value did not bulk largely but from which large economic (and aesthetic) consequences might follow, was seeds and plants. One American botanist, for example, introduced from China to the gardens of Europe and America over a thousand new plants and sent abroad seeds of more than fifteen hundred different species. A French missionary is said to have sent home specimens of at least four thousand species from Yunnan alone. The Department of Agriculture of the United States Government had agents in China searching for plants which might prove of value in America.

The machinery by which foreign trade was handled was altered. The old style compradore who served as an intermediary between Chinese and foreigners was disappearing. More and more foreign manufacturers had their own agents who dealt directly with the Chinese merchant. More Chinese firms were appearing in the importing trade and tended to deal directly with foreign countries without the aid of intermediaries. Chinese banks, too, were entering into competition with foreign banks. The marked decline in the proportion of trade which passed through Hongkong—from 28.7 per cent, in 1913 to 16.8 per cent, in 1929, 15.6 per cent, in 1931, and 8.7 per cent,

in 1932—
seemed to indicate that this British-controlled port of middlemen was being supplanted by direct dealing between Chinese mer-chants and foreign lands.

Great Britain continued to lead European countries in the total amount of its trade with China. As late as 1927 it had more than twice that of any other nation of Europe. In direct com-merce with China Japan surpassed it. However, the anti-Japanese boycott which began in 1931 as the result of Tokyo's Manchurian adventure, in 1932 gave the British Empire a larger proportion. Before 1930 the United States passed Great Britain and in 1932 surpassed Japan. In 1913 the British Empire had 18.7 per cent.